

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05144 122217Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5144

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, AR, US
SUBJECT: STAFFING AND ROLE OF ODC BUENOS AIRES

1. LEAD TIME REQUIREMENTS FOR TIMELY STAFFING MILGP/ODC
BUENOS AIRES HAS PRODUCED A REQUEST TO CHARGE FROM
COMUSMILGP FOR CONCURRENCE IN PROPOSED STAFFING PATTERN
FOR ODC WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY CONGRESS FOR
ARGENTINA. PROPOSAL CALLED FOR SIX US OFFICERS, ONE OR MORE
AT O-6 LEVEL, AND SEVERAL LOCAL NATIONAL SUPPORT
PERSONNEL. WHILE LEAD TIME FOR PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
PRESSES FOR PROMPT DECISION, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT DECISION
ON MAKEUP AND RANK OF PERSONNEL IS NOT TIMELY UNTIL
QUESTION OF REVISED ROLE OF ODC HAS BEEN DECIDED. THIS
QUESTION IS PARTICULARLY STARK IN ARGENTINA WHERE
CONGRESSIONAL ACTION HAS ELIMINATED FMS CREDITS, IMET
(AFTER FY 78), AND ADMINISTRATION POLICY IS LIMITING
COMMERCIAL SALES OF ITEMS ON THE MUNITIONS LIST.
IN THIS SITUATION, WHAT IS ROLE OF ODC? ONLY WHEN THIS
ISSUE IS DEFINED CAN REASONABLE DECISIONS ON STAFFING
MIX AND LEVEL BE MADE.

2. THE ISSUE OF ROLE IS THE CENTRAL ONE, BUT THERE ARE
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MANY RELATED QUESTIONS WHICH MERIT PROMPT ATTENTION.
WHAT ARE TITLES AND PRECEDENCE OF ODC MEMBERS, HOW ARE
THEY ANNOUNCED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT? WHAT ACTION
SHOULD WE BE TAKING WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE
TERMINATION OF EXISTING TRAINING AND MAAG AGREEMENTS?

3. IF THE ROLE OF THE ODC IS TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATION,

HOW IS THAT TO RELATE TO THE REPRESENTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DAO? WE WOULD EXPECT THAT FMS ITEMS IN THE PIPELINE AND FUTURE SERVICING OF REQUESTS FOR FMS CASH CASES WILL REQUIRE LOGISTICAL CAPABILITY IN THE ODC. IF THE GOA CONTINUES TO PURCHASE US TRAINING, THERE SHOULD ALSO BE SOME CAPABILITY TO DEAL WITH TRAINING REQUESTS. WE SUGGEST THAT AN ADDITIONAL ROLE FOR THE ODC MIGHT BE CONSIDERED: VISITING PROFESSORS IN THE MILITARY ACADEMIES AND COLLEGES. TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES MIGHT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER TRAINING OR ADVISORY FUNCTIONS DESIRED BY THE HOST COUNTRY.

4. THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THESE ISSUES WOULD BE WELCOMED.
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